

REMARKS

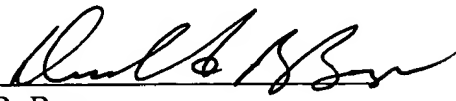
The present response is to the Office Action mailed in the above-referenced case on January 26, 2005. Claims 2-22, 24-34 and 36-38 are standing for examination. Claims 2, 4-14, 22, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo (U.S. 5,765,624) hereinafter Endo, in view of Chen (U.S. 6,765,908), hereinafter Chen. Claims 3 and 28 are rejected as being unpatentable over Endo in view of Chen, and further in view of Dravida et al. (U.S. 5,253,248), hereinafter Dravida. Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo in view of Chen, and further in view of Dommety et al. (U.S. 6,151,319) hereinafter Dommety. Claims 24-25 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo in view of Chen, and further in view of Ferstenberg et al. (U.S. 5,873,071), hereinafter Ferstenberg. Claims 26 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo in view of Chen, and further in view of Gerzberg et al. (U.S. 6,229,810), hereinafter Gerzberg. And finally, claims 15-19 and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has carefully noted and reviewed the rejections, references, and the Examiner's comments and herein accepts the allowance of claims 15-19 and 34. Applicant has complied with the limitation of allowability of dependant claims 15-19 and 34, and herein has amended claims 2 and 27 to include the allowable subject matter of the allowable claims, including the intervening dependant claims. Claims 14, 15, 33 and 34 are accordingly cancelled, and claim 16 has been amended to reflect the new antecedent basis. Dependent claims 3-13, 16-26, 28-32 and 36-38 are therefore now patentable on their own merits, or at least as depended from a patentable claim.

As all of the claims standing for examination as amended are now patentable over the art of record, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and that the present case be passed quickly to issue. If any fees are due beyond fees paid with this amendment,

authorization is made to deduct those fees from deposit account 50-0534. If any time extension is needed beyond any extension requested with this amendment, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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